



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 15, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION



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CENTRE TO BAN 54 CHINESE APPS OVER SECURITY RISKS

Tencent's Xrver and Garena's Free Fire among the apps that face action over alleged threats to India's national security

COLLECTS SENSITIVE USER DATA

The apps that face action include Sweet Selfie HD, Beauty Camera, Music Player, Music Plus, Volume Booster, Video Players Media All Format, Viva Video Editor, Nice Video Baidu, AppLock, and Astracraft. According to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology they collect sensitive user data and store them in servers located in hostile country

CLONES OF PREVIOUSLY BANNED APPS

- According to sources, most of the banned apps are "rebranded or rechristened" versions of the ones that have been banned in India since 2020 over privacy and national security risks
- This is the first major action against Chinese tech firms since the Centre banned 59 apps following June 2020 standoff in Ladakh

321

CHINESE APPS BANNED IN INDIA SINCE MAY 2020

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SC ORDER

'EWS quota in NEET-PG admissions next year too'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

The Supreme Court's verdict on the validity of the ₹8 lakh annual income criteria for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) quota in NEET-PG will apply for admissions in the next year as well.

A bench comprising judges D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant was hearing a writ petition filed by NEET-PG candidates seeking clarification on the applicability of EWS criteria of ₹8 lakh to NEET PG 2022-2023, as the issue regarding its validity is pending consideration in a case relating to 2021-2022 counselling.

During the hearing, the bench said it has not stalled the process for the next year, and the main matter (regarding EWS norms' validity) will be heard in March. The counsel appearing for the petitioners, submitted that his clients have sought an extension of the deadline for edit option in the online forms with respect to the EWS norms.

"No, we cannot grant you extension of the edit window. If authorities have set out a window then so be it. What ever happens in the matter, it will govern because that's our jurisdiction under Article 32," Justice Chandrachud said. The petitioner's counsel pointed out that the prospectus does not mention the pendency of the issue in the other matter: "When the SC is seized of the matter, the SC will give directions. Why should the prospectus mention so?" he asked. "We have not stalled the process for 2022-2023. We just said EWS quota will be as per our order and we will decide in March. You can file intervention in the main matter."

NATIONWIDE	FEB 10	FEB 11	FEB 12
Freshcases	44,877	34,103	
Recoveries	1,17,591	91,930	
Deaths	684	346	

February 10

KARNATAKA	FEB 10	FEB 11	FEB 12
Freshcases	2,372	1,568	
Recoveries	5,395	6,025	
Deaths	27	25	

February 10

A 4-PAGE MARKETING SUPPLEMENT
'SMALL STEPS GIANT LEAPS'
WITH THIS ISSUE

Investors lose ₹8.5 lakh cr as fears of an imminent global crisis pull down Indian stocks

CRORES WIPED OUT AS MARKET CRASHES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

MONDAY'S bloodbath at D-Street wiped out a whopping ₹8.48 lakh crore worth of investor wealth with frontline indices Nifty and Sensex tanking 3% each.

The Nifty ended down 531.95 points at 16,842.8 while the Sensex fell 1,747 points to close at 56,405.84, spooked by global inflationary fears and Russia-Ukraine tensions.

Foreign investors sold shares worth ₹4,254 crore while domestic institutional investors purchased a provisional ₹2,170 crore of shares, enabling the indices to close just off the day's lows.

Banks underperformed with the 12-share Bank Nifty index tanking 4.18% at 36,908.55. HDFC, SBI, ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank fell between 4.5% and 5.5%.

Tata Steel, down 5.5% at ₹1,185.9 apiece, was among the heavyweight metal losers. The stress was evident with 49 of the Nifty stocks closing in the red with TCS being the lone stock to have ended in the green.

The India Vix, which reflects



VOLATILITY RETURNS

FII's pull out \$9.6 bn from India so far this fiscal Banking, financial stocks with high FII holding hurt most Metal stocks pounded as dollar rise crimps commodity prices Fear index Vix surges 23%, indicating further volatility ahead

trader expectations of volatility rose by an alarming 23% to 22.98, indicating further uncertainty in the days ahead.

"The volatility is a reflection of the inflationary stress in the US where interest rate is quoted at 2% when consumer prices are rising at 7.5%," said Raamdeo Agrawal, chairman, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

"The rate is bound to rise and that will affect flows into EMs (emerging markets). But one silver lining is the improvement in corporate profitability in India, which should hold us in good stead, going forward. For this year, though, the market could move 10% plus or minus from here," added

Agarwal.

Rohit Srivastava, founder, IndiaCharts, expects support for the Nifty to kick in at 16,750 and for the Bank Nifty at 36,234. If these levels break, the next support kicks in at 16,500 and 35,800 for Bank Nifty, weekly options expiring on February 17 show.

The Dow Jones opened with a cut of one percent at the time of going to press while Germany's Dax traded down 2.5% and the French CAC was lower 2.9%.

FIIs have sold shares worth \$9.6 billion in the fiscal year through February 11, shows NSDL data. In contrast, they purchased \$37 billion worth of stock in FY21.

\$100/barrel
Crude prices could touch that level and even go beyond, if a war breaks out between Russia and US-led forces over Ukraine, warn analysts

OIL PRICE ZOOMS TO 7-YEAR HIGH OF \$96.16 / BARREL

Oil prices in the international market on Monday jumped to seven-year high as Brent Crude Future was trading at \$96.16 per barrel in the early trading hours. The reason for the hike is the ongoing threat of conflict between Ukraine and Russia. Moscow's forces are massing on Ukraine's north, east and south. Currently, Russia exports 5 million barrels of crude per day. That demand has reached pre-pandemic levels but production remains low, is also a reason for the price hike. However, India is unaffected for now as domestic price has not been revised for more than three months



UTTARAKHAND

59.37% voter turnout

It is 5.43% less than the previous Assembly election. Minor scuffles reported from Haridwar and Nainital districts



GOA

PEACEFUL POLLING IN THREE STATES

60.44% voter turnout

Voting took place across 11,448 polling stations in 55 Assembly constituencies of Uttar Pradesh. There were no reports of poll day violence in the state

78.94% voter turnout

In 2017, the turnout was 81.21%

Over 40 students in hijab return from school

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

EVEN as the Karnataka High Court is hearing petitions over the hijab row, Classes 9 and 10 reopened across the state on Monday after they were ordered shut for three days with the issue taking a violent turn earlier last week.

While schools in the rest of the state reported a fairly peaceful reopening, in Shivamogga, 13 students of Government High School returned home without writing the SSLC preparatory exams which started on Monday, insisting that they be allowed inside classrooms with hijab on. Education department officials tried to convince them to write the examination by removing their headscarf, but in vain.

In a similar incident, over 30 students of a public school in Nellihudikeri in Kodagu came back home after they were barred entry into the school wearing hijab. The students' parents expressed hope of receiving justice from the Karnataka High Court. In one incident in Mandya, the school management asked a teacher to remove her hijab before entering the school, which came under severe criticism and a video of it went viral on social media.

In Belagavi, several girls arrived wearing hijab at Anjuman School and Sardar's High School leading to arguments between parents and staff of schools. The students were later persuaded to remove their hijab and follow the interim order of the court.



Students from the Government High School leave without writing the SSLC preparatory exam after authorities refuse to allow them inside wearing hijab, in Shivamogga on Monday | SHIVAMOGGA HANDEAN

ment asked a teacher to remove her hijab before entering the school, which came under severe criticism and a video of it went viral on social media. In Belagavi, several girls arrived wearing hijab at Anjuman School and Sardar's High School leading to arguments between parents and staff of schools. The students were later persuaded to remove their hijab and follow the interim order of the court.

PU AND DEGREE COLLEGES TO REOPEN TOMORROW

After reopening schools across the state, the State Government on Monday decided to reopen pre-university and degree colleges from Wednesday. Meanwhile, college students have to wear uniforms wherever there is a dress code. The decision was taken in a review meeting, attended by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Govt order illegal: Lawyer to High Court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE state government order prescribing uniforms in schools and colleges is erroneous and illegal, as it says that wearing hijab is not a violation of Article 25 of the Constitution and also leaves the decision on hijab to the College Development Committee (CDC) headed by an MLA. This is a mockery of fundamental right to freedom, senior advocate Devadutt Kamat, representing students from Udupi district, argued before the Karnataka High Court on Monday.

He told the full bench, which is hearing a batch of pleas on the hijab row, that the order dated February 5, 2022, is passed without applying mind. The person who drafted the order has not gone into Article 25, as it says the ban on wearing hijab is not a violation of this Article.

CLASS ACT

IISc gets ₹452 cr donation to build combined hospital, medical college

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN the single-largest private donation in its 113-year-old history, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, received Rs 425 crore to build a postgraduate medical college and multi-specialty hospital on its campus.

Taking the examples of university hospitals set up as part

of institutes, like the Harvard Medical School, Stanford University Medical Center and Johns Hopkins Hospital, the institute hopes to finish building the medical college and hospital by 2024-end.

The project is funded by two philanthropist couples - Sumita and Subroto Bagchi, and Radha and NS Parthasarathy. Subroto and Parthasarathy are co-founders on IT major Mind-

tree. In honour of them, the hospital will be named Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital and the college "IISc Postgraduate Medical School".

The hospital-school will have a 800-bed facility, cater to all possible specialties and have a six-year dual MD-PhD programme. IISc Director Prof Govindan Rangarajan said, "We've already had a century of excellence in science and

engineering, and we're hoping that the next frontier can be the combination of science and engineering with clinical sciences."

Using the examples of inventions like the mRNA Covid-19 vaccine, insulin, pacemaker and defibrillator, he said that they have been invented in medical schools based in universities, something that is not common in India.



An artist's impression of the proposed Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital, on the campus of the IISc in Bengaluru

AIR INDIA GETS ILKER AYCI AS ITS NEW CEO & MD

Ayici, 51, is former chairman of Turkish Airlines. "Ilker is an aviation industry leader who led Turkish Airlines to its current success," Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran said. Ayici is expected to assume his new position on or before April 1 | P12